



ABOUT TURTLE

Turtle is an important character in many tribal creation stories. In some, it was Turtle who piled up mud from the bottom of the Great Waters to form the first land. In others, it was Turtle's broad, smooth back that served as the foundation for the first land, the other animals piling up mud on his back to create it. Some say that since Turtle carries his home on his back, he inspires us to manage in difficult situations. For all these reasons, the Commission selected Turtle for the cover of this brochure.

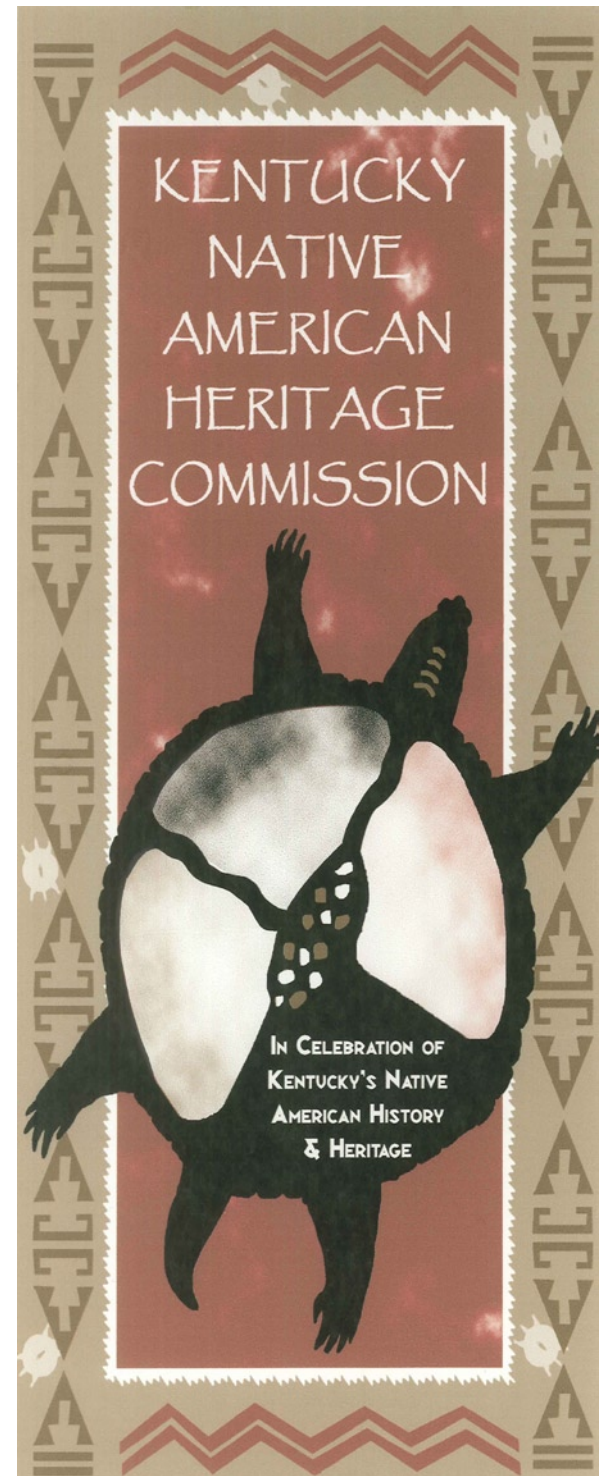


CONTACT THE COMMISSION

You may contact the Commission for information or copies of its educational materials by writing to the following address:

Kentucky Native American
Heritage Commission
100 Washington Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

You also may contact the Commission by phone (502/564-7005) or through the internet at <http://heritage.ky.gov/knahc/>



KENTUCKY NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Established by Executive Order in 1996, and formalized by the Kentucky Legislature in 2004, the Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission serves in an advisory capacity to state agencies on issues pertaining to Native American history, and heritage preservation and protection.

MISSION

To ensure that all Kentuckians recognize, appreciate and understand the significant contributions Native Americans have made to the Commonwealth's rich cultural heritage. Through education and increased awareness, the Commission works to help all of Kentucky's citizens understand the histories, cultures and matters of concern to Native American peoples.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since its creation in 1996, the Commission counts the following among its many accomplishments:

Designation of November as Native American Heritage Month in Kentucky.

Creation of a four-color poster commemorating the heritage of Kentucky's indigenous peoples that is free and distributed statewide.

Development of a 106-page resource packet for educators, *Teaching About American Indians: Stereotypes and Contributions*, that is free and distributed statewide.

Development, with the Kentucky Department of Education, of *Native Americans: Who Are They Today?*, a discipline-based unit in social studies for grades 4 and 5. It is available free from the Commission or downloadable from our website: <http://heritage.ky.gov/knahc/>

Development, with the Kentucky Archaeological Survey, of a companion lesson guide for elementary and middle school teachers to accompany an hour-long video program entitled *A Native Presence*, produced by KET, Kentucky Educational Television.

Sponsorship of Native American Heritage Month activities at the Salato Wildlife Education Center in Frankfort.

Partnership with other groups to create a Native American Arts and Cultural Center for the Commonwealth of Kentucky at General Butler State Park in Carrollton, Kentucky.

Development of legislation to strengthen the protection of Native American

graves and to deter grave desecration and looting in Kentucky.

Partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to support Living Archaeology Weekend, a presentation of prehistoric and traditional native technology to elementary school students and the public at Gladie Historic Site in the Red River Gorge.

GOALS

The Commission has set for itself five main goals:

To educate and communicate the rich diversity and heritage of Native American peoples in Kentucky;

To lead and assist individuals, organizations and communities in understanding the needs and concerns of Kentucky's Native American population;

To advocate Native American participation in state agencies and boards;

To encourage state agencies to develop and support Native American programs; and

To advocate legislation and enforcement of laws affecting Native American peoples and protecting historical and archaeological resources.